

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 8-9 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended. Claims 6 and 7 have been cancelled. New claim 9 has been added.

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter.

In particular, the Examiner alleged that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the term “employee.” Applicants have amended the claims to address the antecedent basis issue.

Claims 1-4 and 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pre-Grant Publication 2003/0187723 (Hadden) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,020,886 (Jacober).

Hadden analyzes the impact of known and unknown events on the fulfillment of business goals. A performance outcome related to the business goals is analyzed to determine the effect of an event on the business goals. According to Hadden, for training evaluation, the impact of training given for particular skills on job and business performance is readily determined. See Hadden, page 1, paragraph [0006].

Jacober is directed to a help demonstration player program, which accepts a set of commands in the form of a script input and generates simulated keystrokes and mouse events. The keystrokes and mouse events are provided to the application program which then operates as if the user had generated the keystrokes and mouse events. See Jacober, column 2, line 63 – column 3, line 2.

According to the claimed invention, as reflected in independent claim 1, for example, a learning button is provided on each of various transaction screens. By pressing a learning button on a transaction screen, a learning screen corresponding to the transaction screen appears on a terminal device. As a result, the need for a user to search for desired information on a different screen is eliminated. If the user has something that he or she wants to know about on the transaction screen, he or she clicks a learning button existing on the transaction screen. That is, the user can move the transaction screen to a learning screen directly, thereby being capable of learning about desired information relating to the transaction screen immediately.

By pressing a learning button on a transaction screen, a user can learn about information relating to the transaction screen immediately, without activating a help screen.

Applicants respectfully submit that currently amended independent claim 1, for example, is patentable over Hadden in view of Jacober, as neither reference, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests a learning button displayed on the transaction screen for requesting transaction learning (made from the terminal device on the transaction screen) to display a learning screen on the terminal device that enables an employee to learn about the transaction on the transaction screen, as indicated by the language of claim 1.

Hadden is not directed to a learning program. Rather, in contrast to the present invention, Hadden is directed to assessing the benefit of training. As Hadden is merely directed to training assessment, Hadden does not teach or suggest the above-identified feature of the present invention.

In contrast to the present invention, Jacober simply plays help demonstration on a help screen. Jacober does not teach providing a learning button on various display screens to allow a user to learn about information relating to a display screen immediately. Rather, in Jacober, a user searches for information that he/she wants to know and starts a demonstration. Therefore, Jacober does not add any relevant information to Hadden.

In light of the foregoing, independent claims 1 and 8 are patentable over the references, as neither reference, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the above-identified feature of the claims. As dependent claims 2-4 and 6-7 depend from the independent claims, the dependent claims are patentable over the references for at least the reasons presented for the independent claims.

On page 6 of the Office Action, claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hadden in view of Jacober and further in view of Official Notice.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 5, via independent claim 1, is patentable over the references, as neither reference, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the above-identified feature of independent claim 1.

Further, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's Official Notice statement and request that the Examiner produce authority for the statement regarding the formula.

The Examiner uses common knowledge as the principal evidence for the rejection. As explained in M.P.E.P. § 2144.03(E):

any facts so noticed should . . . serve only to 'fill in the gaps' in an insubstantial manner which might exist in the evidentiary showing made by the Examiner to support a particular ground of rejection. It is never appropriate to rely solely on common knowledge in the art without

evidentiary support in the record as the principal evidence upon which a rejection was based.

If the Examiner is relying on personal knowledge, the Examiner is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.104(d)(2) to support his assertion with an affidavit when called for by the Applicant. Thus, Applicant calls upon the Examiner to support such assertion with an affidavit if the Examiner is relying on personal knowledge.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 9 is patentable over the references, as the references fail to teach or suggest, "accepting activation of a learning button on a transaction screen; and displaying a learning screen corresponding to the transaction screen on the terminal device, in response to the activation."

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 10/13/06

By: 

Reginald D. Lucas
Registration No. 46,883

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501